

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/055 W

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R 241558Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 345
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LT, LI, NI

SUBJECT: KING MOSHOESHOE VISITS NIGERIA: SEEKS AID

1. KING MOSHOESHOE II ARRIVED IN LAGOS FROM MASERU EVENING JULY 22 AND WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON, WHOSE MOTORCADE MADE ITS WAY THROUGH ONE OF WORST TRAFFIC JAMS THIS CITY HAS YET EXPERIENCED. THE LESOTHO MONARCH WAS RECEIVED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS, INCLUDING 21-GUN SALUTE.

2. THE HELD HELD MEETINGS WITH GOWON JULY 23 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR MONROVIA AFTER THE ONE DAY STOPOVER VISIT. AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE BOARDING GOWON'S EXECUTIVE JET WHICH WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO KING BY FMG, MOSHOESHOE TOLD REPORTERS HIS COUNTRY HAD ASKED NIGERIA FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING A REQUEST FOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN NIGERIA FOR LESOTHO NATIONALS. KING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH GROWING CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NIGERIA AND LESOTHO, EXPLAINING MAJOR PURPOSE HIS

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VISIT HAD BEEN CEMENT BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO

COUNTRIES. KING MOSHOESHOE SAID HE HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL GOWON AND EXPRESSED HOPE HIS REQUEST FOR AID WOULD BE GRANTED BY FMG. NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE ALSO TRAVELED TO AIRPORT TO SEE OFF MOSHOESHOE, WHO AGAIN WAS GIVEN FULL MILITARY HONORS IN DEPARTURE CEREMONY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE ONE PURPOSE OF THE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN TO PROVIDE KING A REST STOP ON HIS WAY TO LIBERIA, IT IS LIKELY THAT NIGERIANS WILL MAKE SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE TO LESOTHO'S REQUEST FOR AID. NIGERIANS RESENT DOMINANT POSITION HELD BY SOUTH AFRICA IN LESOTHO AND ARE ANXIOUS TO FIND WAYS TO LESSEN PRETORIA'S INFLUENCE IN MASERU. FMG'S OIL REVENUES PROVIDE NIGERIA'S LEADERSHIP WHERE-WITH-ALL TO TAKE SOME TANGIBLE, EVEN IF TOKEN STEPS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL.

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Message Attributes

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